

## Oral Questions

## THE CANADIAN ECONOMY

## INFLATION—COURSE OF ACTION OF MINISTER IF ATTEMPT TO ACHIEVE CONSENSUS ON RESTRAINT FAILS

**Mr. Walter Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Finance and I should like to say to him that perhaps yesterday was a bad day for him. I can understand that because really his optimism is lying in shambles at his feet. When, a few moments ago, he expressed his confidence in the consensus program on which he embarked, or on which he is to embark, was he serving notice to this parliament and his colleagues in the government that if that program does not work he will leave the ministry which he occupies at this time?

● (1130)

**Hon. John N. Turner (Minister of Finance):** Mr. Speaker, it seems that the hon. gentleman is having a rather bad day today. I hope he will consult with his own leader who said yesterday that, although he might have some doubts about the procedure, he would give whatever support he could to a sincere effort to cope with the inflationary difficulties of this country. I recommend that to the hon. member.

**Mr. Baker (Grenville-Carleton):** A supplementary question, Mr. Speaker. Would the minister use his memory and recall that the leader of my party said that we will support any sincere effort by the government with respect to the consensus.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear!

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[Translation]

## ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS

## DAMAGE CAUSED BY SPRUCE BUD WORMS—GOVERNMENT ACTION TO ASSIST

**Mr. Eymard Corbin (Madawaska-Victoria):** Mr. Speaker, I should like to put a question to the Minister of Environment.

Because of the ravages caused by the spruce bud worm in New Brunswick, Maine and Quebec in the last few years, can the minister tell us whether the federal government has reached a decision on the amount of financial assistance it will be able to give that province this year?

**Hon. Jeanne Sauvé (Minister of the Environment):** Mr. Speaker, the funds earmarked for spraying trees infested with the spruce bud worm had been cancelled. Because efforts are being made this year to convince me that the epidemic may be more serious than in years past, that it could become even worse, I am in the process of looking into what steps I could take to alleviate somewhat the gravity of the situation.

[Mr. Knowles (Winnipeg North Centre).]

[English]

## GRAIN

## ALLEGED DIVERSION OF SHIPMENTS FROM WEST COAST TO EAST COAST—REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION

**Mr. John A. Fraser (Vancouver South):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the minister in charge of the Wheat Board. Yesterday I asked the minister to report to the House on the diminution by 10 million bushels a month in the amount of grain moving out of the port of Vancouver. Admittedly, although I raised the question only yesterday, the Wheat Board had announced on April 3 that there has been considerable discussion of this subject, especially on the west coast. Can the minister give the House any information.

**Hon. Otto E. Lang (Minister of Justice):** Mr. Speaker, I have talked with the commissioner of the Canadian Wheat Board about the reported statement to which the hon. member alludes. The matter to which he made reference had actually occurred long before April 3. The statement in no way indicates any lack of performance at this time. As I indicated to hon. members yesterday, performance on the west coast is very good. The comment made during the course of the labour dispute was merely to the effect that such problems on the coast might indeed lead to a change in the attitude as to how much can be accommodated at any one time; but that would be subject to review and I have no doubt that the port will continue to perform at high levels.

**Mr. Fraser:** Mr. Speaker, I thank the minister for looking into this matter immediately and reporting. May I ask a supplementary question. Was the minister saying that there is not a policy for reducing by 10 million bushels a month shipments from the port of Vancouver, because this suggestion has appeared in the press.

**Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, I think I can say to hon. members that the Canadian Wheat Board will look at the capacity of the port, and at sales opportunities. In balancing sales opportunities from the east and west, it will make as full use of the port as seems feasible. As sales opportunities present themselves, we foresee that the west coast will be handling record volumes again.

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## AGRICULTURE

## BEEF STABILIZATION PROGRAM—REQUEST FOR EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW PRICE SUPPORT LEVEL

**Mr. Bert Hargrave (Medicine Hat):** Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Agriculture. In view of current indications that cattle feeders are now planning to sell most of their fat cattle just before August 11, the final day of the minister's first year support policy, will the minister give serious consideration to announcing immediately the new price support level for the second year, to reinforce his previous policy announcement, namely, that the beef stabilization program is to be continued after August 11.